

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 17, 20, 26 and 29 are amended and claims 14-16, 18-19, 21-25 and 27-28 are cancelled. Accordingly, claims 17, 20, 26, and 29-30 are pending. Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejected claims in view of the above amendments and following remarks.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant appreciates the indication that claims 17-20, 26, 29 and 30 contain allowable subject matter. Specifically, claims 17-20, 26, 29 and 30 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Pursuant to the Examiner's suggestion, the allowable subject matter of claims 17, 20, 26, and 29 have been combined with claims 14 and 16, 14 and 18, 24 and 25, and 24 and 27, respectively. Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the objection to claims 17, 20, 26, 29 and 30, and thereby all claims are now in condition for allowance.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Examiner has rejected claims 14-16, 18, 19, 21, 24, 25, 27 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent No. JP 2001-163063 to Mizuno et al. (hereinafter Mizuno), for reasons of record, as applied to original claims 1-3, 5-8, 10 and 11.

These rejections are believed moot in view of the cancellation of all of the above rejected claims, and the aforementioned incorporation of allowable subject matter to those remaining claims enumerated above.

III. Conclusion

Applicant submits that the entry of this amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116, as the claim changes place the application in condition for allowance as suggested by the Examiner.

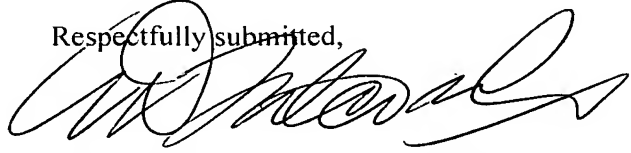
In view of the above amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully submits that all the claims are allowable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that any thing further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

OZEKI -- Application No. 10/760,632
Attorney Docket: 008312-0307820

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Titcomb', written over the words 'Respectfully submitted,'.

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